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TRANSMITTAL SHEET

DATE: 28 August 2003

To: Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C.
20231

Re: Applicant's Summary of Substance of Interview

Title: **METHOD FOR CROSS-CONNECTING OPTICAL SIGNALS AT HIGH
SPEED**

Serial No.: 09/835,543

Filed: 17 April 2001

Examiner: KIM, Richard H. Art Unit: 2871

Fax: (703) 872-9318

From: Gavin N. Manning

NO. OF PAGES INCLUDING THIS TRANSMITTAL SHEET: 7

ENCLOSURES: TRANSMITTAL SHEET - 1 PAGE
APPLICANT'S SUMMARY OF
SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW - 6 PAGES

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 Christine Crawford - Assistant to Gavin N. Manning

File No.: C525 0152
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s): RICHARDSON, Douglas
Title: **METHOD FOR CROSS-CONNECTING OPTICAL SIGNALS AT HIGH SPEED**
Serial No.: 09/835,543
Filed: 17 April 2001
Examiner: KIM, Richard H. Art Unit: 2871
Date: 28 August 2003

**APPLICANT'S SUMMARY OF SUBSTANCE
OF INTERVIEW TRANSMITTAL**

To: Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C.
20231

Dear Sir:

Transmitted herewith is a response to the Office communication dated 28 July 2003. It is believed that no fees are payable in relation to this communication.

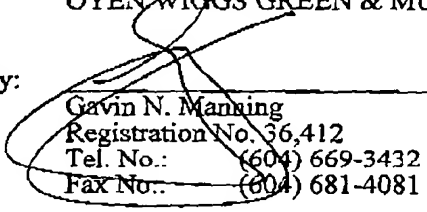
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Respectfully submitted,
OYEN WIGGS GREEN & MUTALA

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By:


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 Christine Crawford - Assistant to Gavin N. Manning

C525 0152
GNM/TAR/at

Paper No.: _____

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent Examining Operations

Patent Application

Inventor(s): RICHARDSON, Douglas
Title: METHOD FOR CROSS-CONNECTING OPTICAL SIGNALS AT HIGH
SPEED
Serial No.: 09/835543
Filed: 17 April 2001
Examiner: KIM, Richard H. Art Unit: 2871
Date: 28 August 2003

To: Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C.
20231

Dear Sir:

APPLICANT'S SUMMARY OF SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW

This is in response to the Office communication mailed 28 July 2003 which requests that the Applicant file a statement of the substance of an interview relating to the claims of this application. The Applicant's statement follows.

Particulars of Interview:

- (i) **Parties:** Examiner Richard H. Kim and Gavin N. Manning
(agent for the Applicant);
- (ii) **Date:** 17 July 2003 and 21 July 2003;
- (iii) **Method of interview:** telephonic;
- (iv) **Claims discussed:** 1, 17-19, 21, 25, 38, 39, 46 and 49;
- (v) **Prior art discussed:** Welch et al. (US 5,255,332) and Winarski et al.
(US 6,317,190);
- (vi) **Exhibits discussed:** see the attached drawings, entitled:
(a) PRIOR ART (WELCH ET AL.);
(b) THIS INVENTION (#1); and
(c) THIS INVENTION (#2);
- (vii) **Amendments discussed:** amendment of claim 20 to depend only from claim 4;
cancellation of claims 17-19;
- (viii) **Arguments of Examiner and Applicant:** see discussion in Substance of Interview below;
- (ix) **Other pertinent matters discussed:**
- (x) **Results of interview:** see discussion in Substance of Interview below.

Substance of Interview:

The Applicant advanced the argument that Welch et al. (US 5,255,332) and Winarski et al. (US 6,317,190) fail to teach or disclose focusing a selected input light beam onto a reflective optical switching element and/or an optical element configured to focus an optical signal onto a reflective optical switching element as claimed. (i) Welch et al. fails to disclose focusing an input beam on gratings (17); (ii) Welch et al. mentions "focusing" (at col. 3, ln. 5), but this relates to focusing the deflected light into the output optical fiber; and (iii) Welch et al. teaches that the optical beam is collimated when it impinges on gratings (17).

The Applicant agreed to cancel claims 17-19 and to amend claim 20 to depend only from claim 4. The Examiner and the Applicant agreed that Welch et al. and Winarski et al. fail to disclose or suggest focussing an optical signal onto a reflective optical switching element.

The Applicant filed an Amendment dated 9 August 2003 which is responsive to the Office communication dated 9 April 2003 and which incorporates the arguments raised and the agreements reached in this interview.

Respectfully submitted,
OYEN WIGGS GREEN & MUTALA

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